

# **Abandoned Railroad Bridges Permanent Archival Record**

HP GA-10061-005 and HP-111107-003

Henry and Crawford Counties, Georgia

Report submitted to:

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Norfolk Southern Corporation • 3 Commercial Place • Norfolk, VA 23510

Report prepared by:

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New South Associates • 6150 East Ponce de Leon Avenue • Stone Mountain, Georgia 30083

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Beth Reed". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid.

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Mary Beth Reed – Principal Investigator

Terri DeLoach Gillett – Historian and Author

January 9, 2015

# INTRODUCTION

## HP GA-10061-005 & HP-111107-003

New South Associates, Inc. (NSA) prepared this Permanent Archival Record (PAR) for three timber trestle bridges along abandoned rail line projects owned by the Norfolk Southern Railway Company (NSR). The Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Historic Preservation Division advised NSR that removal of the bridges would result in an adverse effect. These bridges are significant for their association with the complex network of railroads that moved goods and people around the State of Georgia and beyond from the late nineteenth century through the first decades of the twentieth century. The development of Georgia's railroads impacted all aspects of the state's history, most notably its economic interests and residential settlement patterns.

The first bridge (HP-111107-003) is located in Henry County, approximately five miles southwest of McDonough, Georgia at milepost 4.90 over Indian Creek. The 143.55-foot long timber pile trestle bridge was constructed in 1943 along a stretch of line originally developed by the Georgia Midland & Gulf Railroad, chartered in 1885, which ran from Columbus, through Warm Springs, to McDonough. The Georgia Midland Railway acquired the line in 1895 and it was merged into Norfolk Southern in 1996. The stretch between McDonough and Griffin was officially abandoned in 2011, but had been unused for many years prior to that.

The remaining two bridges (HP GA-10061-005) are located in Crawford County, south of Roberta, along the former Atlanta & Florida Railroad, which ran from Fayetteville to Fort Valley. The line was consolidated into the Southern Railway in 1895. The first bridge spans Culpepper Creek at milepost 90.80, approximately two miles south of Roberta. It is a 160-foot long timber trestle bridge constructed in 1925. The second bridge is located approximately five miles southwest of Roberta over Beaver Creek at milepost 94.10. It is also a 160-foot long timber trestle bridge and was constructed in 1913. The line was leased to short line Ogeechee Railway between 1990 and 2009, and abandonment was filed in 2010.

Because these stretches of rail have been abandoned for some time, the bridges were found in the expected state, completely overtaken with vegetation. Every attempt was made to document the bridges as thoroughly as possible, considering their existing conditions. This PAR document includes a short description of the three bridges (above), location information, and photography recorded to standards adhering to the Georgia State Historic Preservation Office's *Guidelines for Establishing a Permanent Archival Record*. Each view is described on a photo log and shown on a sketch map of the bridges.

Geographic Information:

HP-111107-003

Norfolk Southern Bridge at Milepost 4.90 over Indian Creek  
 Henry County, Georgia, approximately 5 miles SW of McDonough, Georgia  
 UTM 16S 762983 3696769

HP GA-10061-005

Norfolk Southern Bridge at Milepost 90.80 over Culpepper Creek  
 Crawford County, Georgia, approximately 2 miles S of Roberta, Georgia  
 UTM 16S 780564 3621110

and

Norfolk Southern Bridge at Milepost 94.10 over Beaver Creek  
 Crawford County, Georgia, approximately 5 miles S of Roberta, Georgia  
 16S 780054 3616397

# Project Location Map HP-111107-003 - Norfolk Southern Bridge at Indian Creek

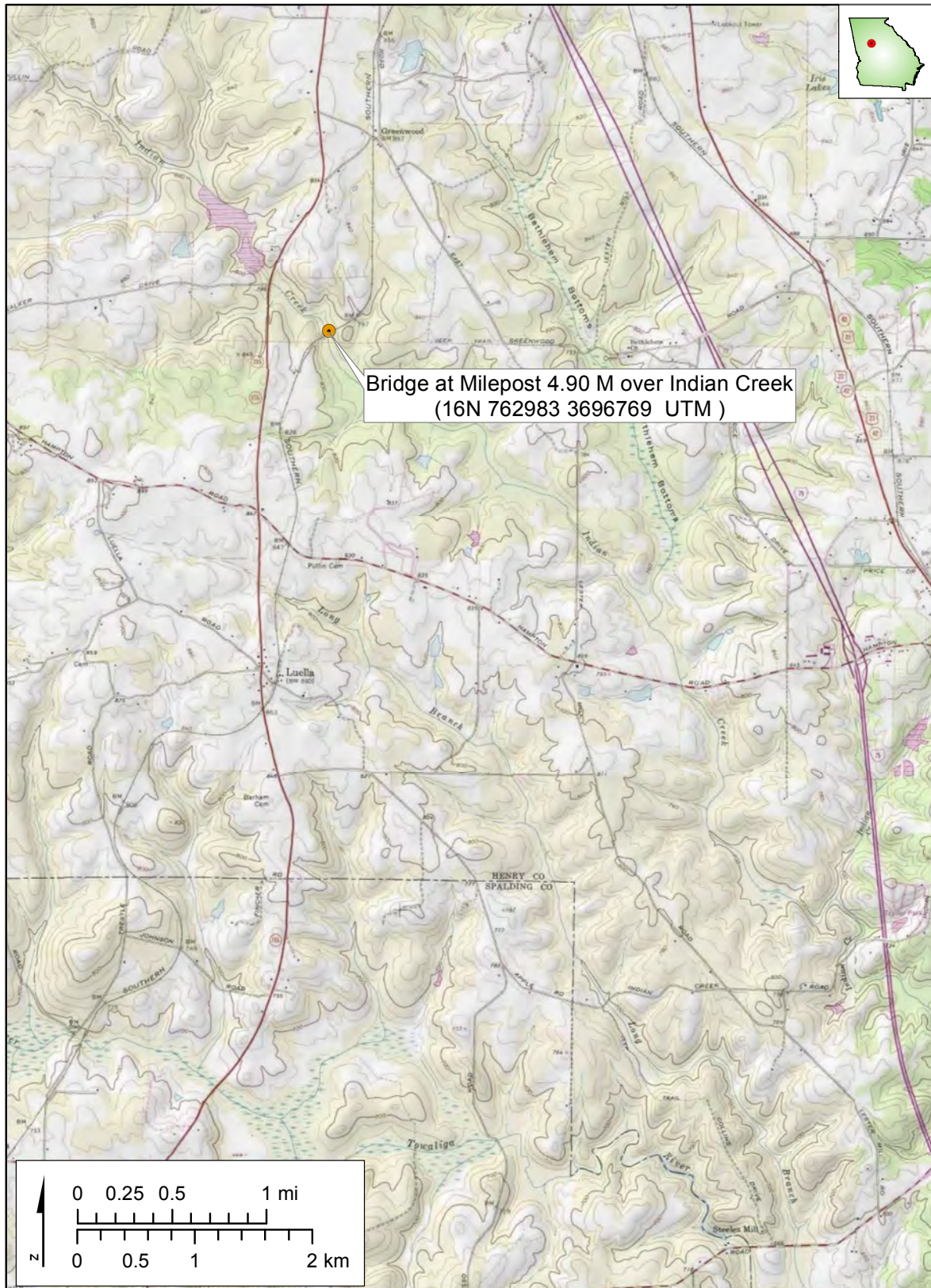


Photo Log  
Norfolk Southern Bridge at Indian Creek

Henry County, Georgia, approximately 5 miles SW of McDonough, Georgia

Milepost 4.90 over Indian Creek

Date: September 4, 2014

Photographer: Terri Gillett

Digital image files located at the Georgia Historic Preservation Division

Photo #	Description of View
1	Looking SW along bridge deck
2	Detail of bridge ties and guard timber looking down at Indian Creek, view south.
3	Looking NE along bridge deck
4	Bridge substructure, looking SW
5	Bridge substructure, looking NW
6	Timber piles, looking S
7	Bridge substructure, looking W
8	Substructure and deck, looking W
9	Base of substructure, looking SW
10	Top of substructure, looking SW



Proof Sheet - Norfolk Southern Bridge at Indian Creek  
Henry County, Georgia, approximately 5 miles SW of McDonough, Georgia at milepost 4.90



IndianCreekBridge-1



IndianCreekBridge-2



IndianCreekBridge-3



IndianCreekBridge-4



IndianCreekBridge-5



IndianCreekBridge-6



Proof Sheet - Norfolk Southern Bridge at Indian Creek  
Henry County, Georgia, approximately 5 miles SW of McDonough, Georgia at milepost 4.90



IndianCreekBridge-7



IndianCreekBridge-8

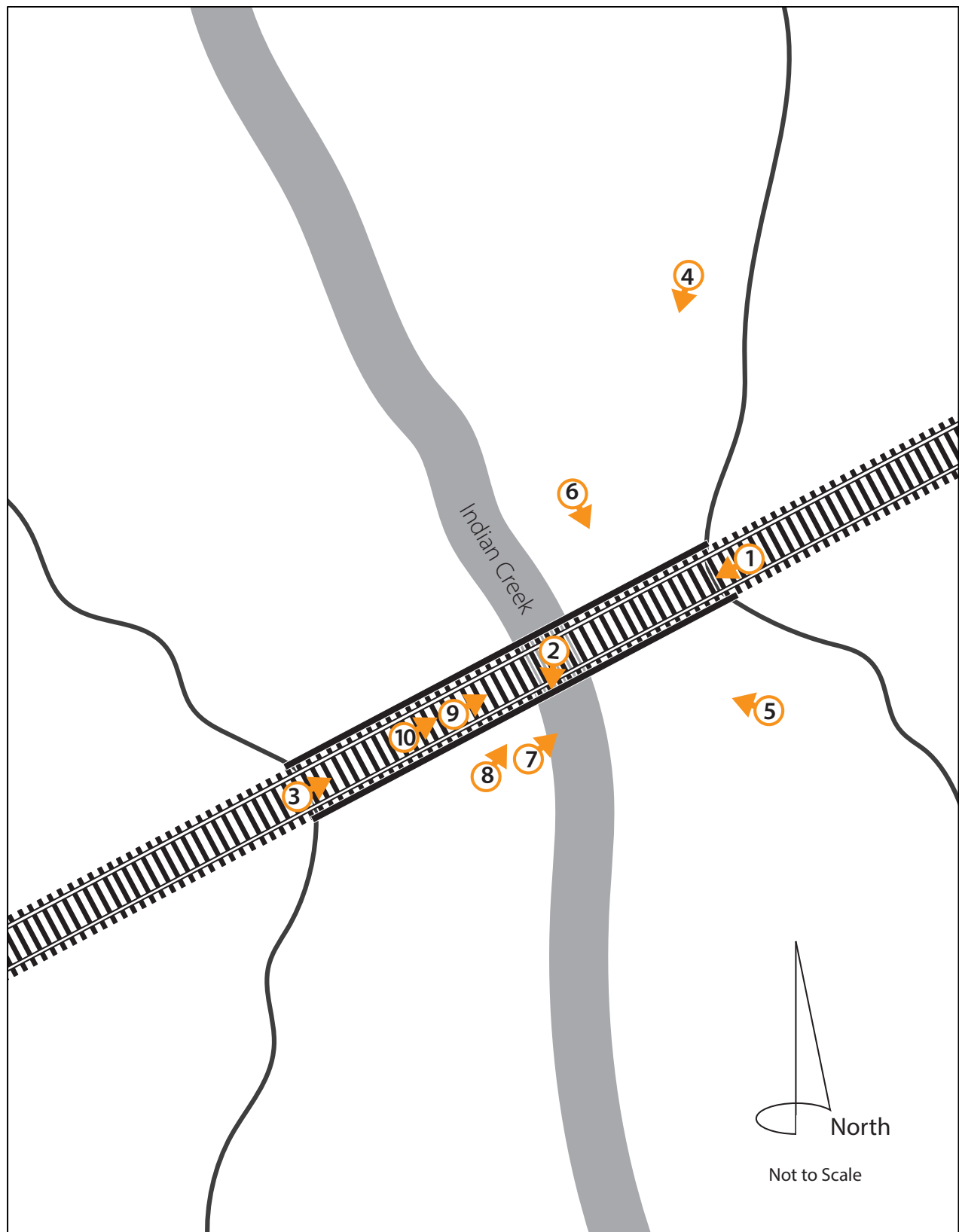


IndianCreekBridge-9



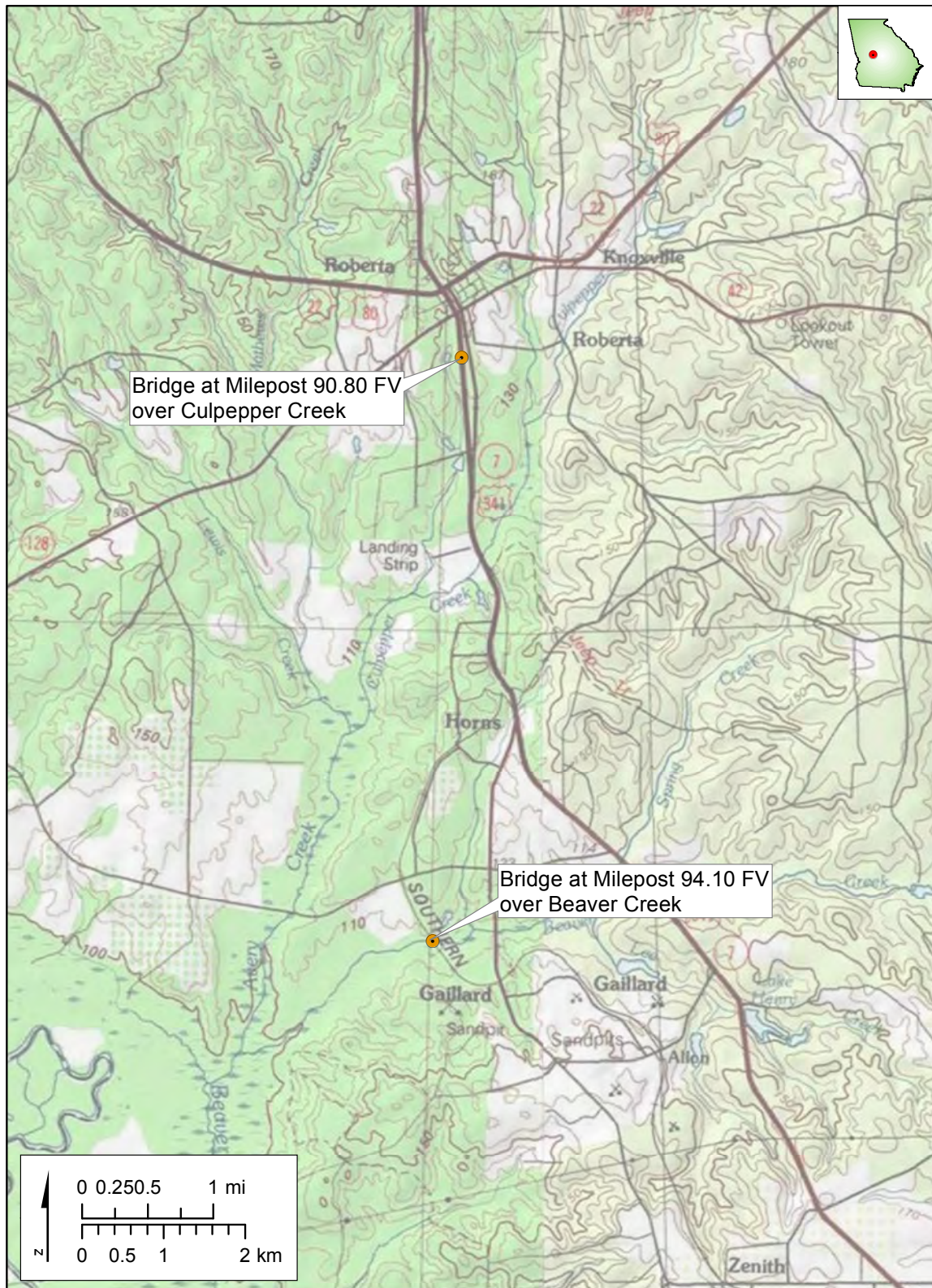
IndianCreekBridge-10

Sketch Map/Photo Locations - Norfolk Southern Bridge at Indian Creek  
Henry County, Georgia, approximately 5 miles SW of McDonough, Georgia at milepost 4.90





Project Location Map  
HP GA-10061-005 - Norfolk Southern Bridge at Culpepper Creek,  
Norfolk Southern Bridge at Beaver Creek



Source: USGS 7.5 Minute Topographic Quadrangle Maps, Roberta, GA (1986) and Knoxville, GA (1986)

Photo Log  
Norfolk Southern Bridge at Culpepper Creek

Crawford County, Georgia, approximately 2 miles S of Roberta, Georgia

Milepost 90.80 over Culpepper Creek

Date: August 27, 2014

Photographer: Terri Gillett

Digital image files located at the Georgia Historic Preservation Division

Photo #	Description of View
1	Looking SE along bridge deck
2	Detail of rail under vegetation, looking E
3	Retaining wall on embankment, looking W
4	View of bridge from northern embankment, looking S
5	Bridge support and northern abutment
6	Bridge profile from creek bed, looking SW
7	View of substructure, looking N
8	View of substructure, looking W
9	View of piers in Culpepper Creek, looking NW
10	View of substructure, looking S



Proof Sheet - Norfolk Southern Bridge at Culpepper Creek  
Crawford County, Georgia, approximately 2 miles S of Roberta, Georgia at milepost 90.80



CulpepperCreekBridge-1



CulpepperCreekBridge-2



CulpepperCreekBridge-3



CulpepperCreekBridge-4



CulpepperCreekBridge-5



CulpepperCreekBridge-6



Proof Sheet - Norfolk Southern Bridge at Culpepper Creek  
Crawford County, Georgia, approximately 2 miles S of Roberta, Georgia at milepost 90.80



CulpepperCreekBridge-7



CulpepperCreekBridge-8



CulpepperCreekBridge-9



CulpepperCreekBridge-10

Sketch Map/Photo Locations - Norfolk Southern Bridge at Culpepper Creek  
Crawford County, Georgia, approximately 2 miles S of Roberta, Georgia at milepost 90.80

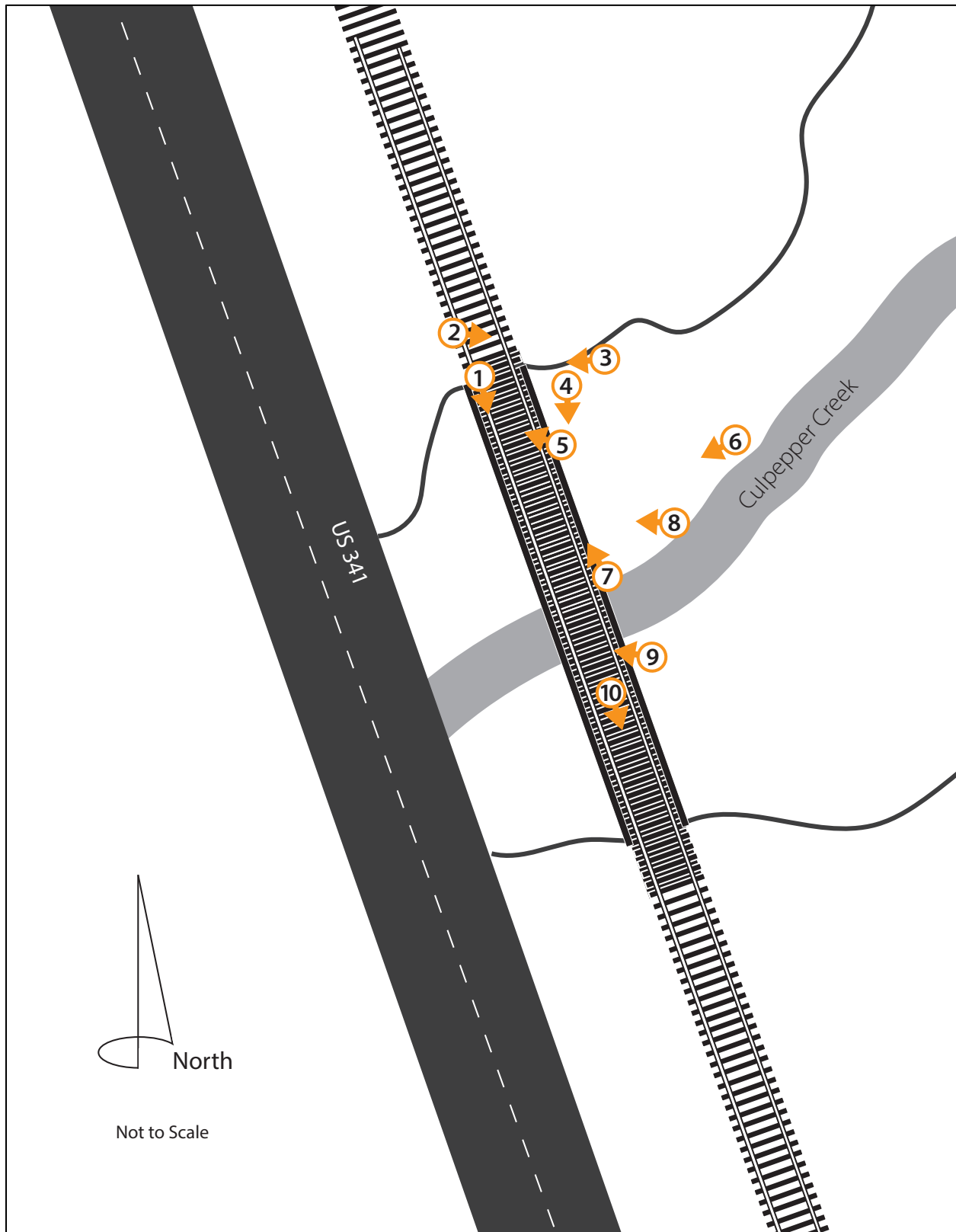


Photo Log  
Norfolk Southern Bridge at Beaver Creek

Crawford County, Georgia, approximately 5 miles S of Roberta, Georgia

Milepost 94.10 over Beaver Creek

Date: August 27, 2014

Photographer: Terri Gillett

Digital image files located at the Georgia Historic Preservation Division

Photo #	Description of View
1	Looking NW along bridge deck
2	Looking SE along bridge deck
3	View S, from northern embankment
4	View NE at bridge substructure
5	View N toward northern embankment
6	View W under bridge
7	View SW at underside of deck
8	View NW at Beaver Creek and substructure
9	View SE at substructure
10	View E at profile of bridge abutment



Proof Sheet - Norfolk Southern Bridge at Beaver Creek  
Crawford County, Georgia, approximately 5 miles S of Roberta, Georgia at milepost 94.10



BeaverCreekBridge-1



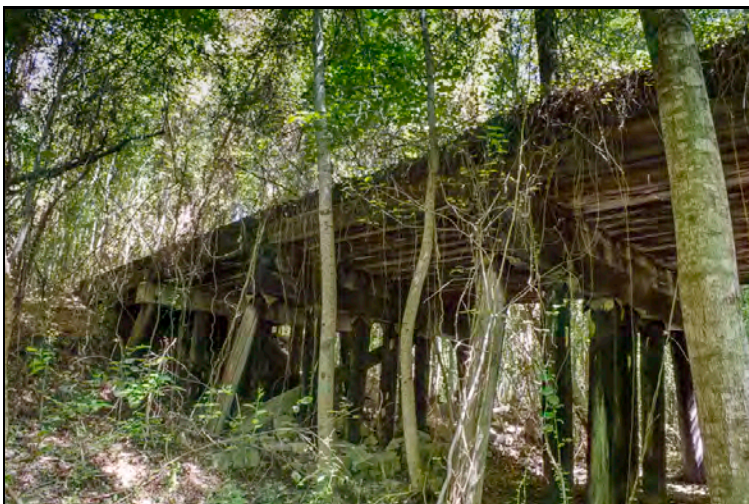
BeaverCreekBridge-2



BeaverCreekBridge-3



BeaverCreekBridge-4



BeaverCreekBridge-5



BeaverCreekBridge-6



Proof Sheet - Norfolk Southern Bridge at Beaver Creek  
Crawford County, Georgia, approximately 5 miles S of Roberta, Georgia at milepost 94.10



BeaverCreekBridge-7



BeaverCreekBridge-8



BeaverCreekBridge-9



BeaverCreekBridge-10

Sketch Map/Photo Locations - Norfolk Southern Bridge at Beaver Creek  
Crawford County, Georgia, approximately 5 miles S of Roberta, Georgia at milepost 94.10

